(d) what are the losses in this regard during the period upto February, 2008, as compared to the same period of the previous year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated to be about Rs. 33,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

For promotion of food processing industries which include fruits and vegetables and grain processing, financial assistance is provided by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the form of grant under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of food processing industries. Under this Scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries *w.e.f.* 01.04.07.

Since one of the major constraints for low level of processing in agro-food products is lack of infrastructure such as cold chain facilities and inefficient supply chain, the Ministry has developed comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme, during the Eleventh Plan, for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels (i) farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, (ii) collection/aggregation centres and (iii) Strategic Distribution Centres. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Ministry has also identified thrust areas for strategic intervention for the Eleventh Plan, by establishing Mega Food Parks, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building and Human Resource Development by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), encouraging Research and Development, establishment/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories and various promotional activities which would result in increasing the level of processing, value addition of food products, including perishables like fruits and vegetables.

Food processing units in Kanpur

4003. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that, due to insufficient number of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh, lots of farmers have to destroy their crops of potato, tomato etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any assessment, to find out the need of such industries in the areas around Kanpur, so that such products are utilized and farmers also get proper incentives;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much FDI has been induced in this industry and how many of them have been established in UP, particularly in and around Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure/cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Survey conducted for Uttar Pradesh indicates that the State is the largest producer of mango, aonla, peas and sweet potato. It is ranked sixth in vegetable production and eighth in fruit production in the country. The value of horticulture produce, at whole sale prices, works out to about Rs. 10,000 crore in the State and the post-harvest losses work out to Rs. 2000 crore. This offers a great potential for investment in post-harvest management, cold chain, distribution network for perishables and processing of horticulture produce.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support of R & D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like taxation reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries.

As per information available, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflow in Food Processing Sector has increased from Rs. 176 crores during 2004-05 to Rs. 441 crores during 2006-07.

Utilisation of funds by scientific and technological institutions

4004. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BE and RE allocations in respect of scientific and technological institutions have remained underutilized, if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such under utilization and whether Government has identified the bottlenecks causing such under utilization; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the utilization of allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) allocations in a few scientific and technological institutions funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development remain underutilized largely because